

History 180/Ethnic Studies 134
Immigration, Ethnicity, and Citizenship in Recent American History
Fall 2014—University of California, San Diego

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The issues of globalization, transnational migration, ethnic group formation, and the politics of citizenship are among the most provocative areas of social science and humanities research today. This intensive upper-division reading/discussion course is designed to provide a thematic interdisciplinary overview on the history of these issues and related questions by exploring recent interpretations of developments in the migration history of the United States over the course of the twentieth century.

Course Requirements: This is an intensive upper-division interdisciplinary course in which students are expected to come well prepared to discuss readings each week. Individual students will lead discussion of readings each week and participation in class will account for 30 percent of the final grade. Students are also expected to write a 20-25 page term paper based either on a synthetic review of course readings or on one of the topical areas addressed in the course (e.g. changing paradigms in migration studies; the debate over globalization; problems of the “second generation” and general issues of immigrant adaptation; economic and/or labor dimensions of transnational migration; gendered dimensions of transnational migration; the politics of ethnicity and citizenship; etc.). Students may also choose other topics after consultation with the instructor. The term paper will account for the remaining 70 percent of the final course grade. Papers will be due during final exam week.

All required reading will be available online through the UCSD Library website.

Suggested Supplemental Text: Paul Spickard, *Almost All Aliens: Immigration, Race, and Colonialism in American History and Identity*. New York: Routledge University Press, 2007.

Week 1 (Oct. 6)—Course Introduction and Overview

Week 2 (Oct. 13)—Capitalism, Imperialism, and Migration: The Global Context

American comprehension of the history of immigration, ethnicity, and citizenship has always been colored by deeply rooted assumptions that are often empirically untested, much less considered critically for their ideological underpinnings. This week’s readings engage some of those basic assumptions by placing the phenomenon of immigration to the United States in a larger global context that attends to the history of imperialism and capitalism. The assigned readings focus in particular on the question of how these

massive social forces helped to stimulate the transnational and transregional movement of peoples around the globe.

READ: Adam McKeown, “Global Migration, 1846-1940” *Journal of World History* 15 (2) (2004): 155-89; June Mei, “Socioeconomic Origins of Emigration: Guangdong to California, 1850-1882,” *Modern China* 5 (4) (Oct. 1979): 463-501; Richard B. Allen, “Slaves, Convicts, Abolitionism and the Global Origins of the Post-Emancipation Indentured Labor System,” *Slavery and Abolition* 35 (2) (April 2014): 328-48; Giovanni Gozzini, “The Global System of International Migrations, 1900 and 2000: A Comparative Approach,” *Journal of Global History* 1 (3) (Nov. 2006): 321-41; David G. Gutiérrez, “Protecting America’s Borders and the Undocumented Immigrant Dilemma,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the History of American Immigration and Ethnicity*, ed. Ronald H. Bayor (New York: Oxford University Press, in press).

Week 3 (Oct. 20)—The Evolution of the Immigration Debate

The forces of imperialism and capitalist development in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries helped set the context for the largest mass movement of human populations in history in the period between the dawning of the Industrial Revolution and the onset of the Great Depression. Rapid population shifts created steadily increasing social tensions and strains in settler societies such as the United States (and other immigrant-receiving areas of the world), and largely as a result, a movement emerged in many nations to restrict and control both the process of transnational population movement and transnational migrants themselves. This week’s readings explore the evolution and significance of the impulse to restrict and control immigration and thus help to provide the historical context for understanding the origins of the contemporary debate over issues of immigration and national citizenship.

READ: Ronald Schultz, “Allegiance and Land Go Together: Automatic Naturalization and the Changing Nature of Immigration in Nineteenth-Century America,” *American Nineteenth-Century History* 12 (2) (June 2011): 149-76; Triadafilos Triadafilopoulos, “Building Walls, Building Nations: Migration and Exclusion in Canada and Germany, 1870-1939,” *Journal of Historical Sociology* 17 (4) (2004): 385-427; Erika Lee, “The ‘Yellow Peril’ and Asian Exclusion in the Americas,” *Pacific Historical Review* 76 (4) (Nov. 2007): 537-62; Mae Ngai, “The Architecture of Race in American Immigration Law: A Reexamination of the Immigration Act of 1924,” *Journal of American History* 86 (1) (June 1999): 67-92; S. Deborah Kang, “Implementation: How the Borderlands Redefined Federal Immigration Law and Policy in California, Arizona, and Texas, 1917-1924,” *California Legal History* 7 (2012): 245-86.

Week 4 (Oct. 27)—Immigrant Responses to Racialization and Restriction

The global movement to restrict and control migration flows between and among nations and regions placed huge strains on the populations against whom these policies and practices were targeted. As a result, members of these increasingly dense and complex transnational social networks were compelled to devise innovative social, economic, and political strategies to help them cope with and survive attempts to control their freedom of movement. This week's readings explore different historical examples in which members of different immigrant and ethnic groups attempted to devise and implement different coping mechanisms and strategies of resistance against efforts to constrain their activities.

READ: Adam McKeown, "Transnational Chinese Families and Chinese Exclusion, 1875-1943," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 18 (2) (Winter 1999): 73-110; Kornel Chang, "Circulating Race and Empire: Transnational Labor Activism and the Politics of Asian-American Agitation in the Anglo-Pacific World, 1880-1910," *Journal of American History* 96 (3) (2009): 678-701; Paul Spickard, "The Nisei Assume Power: The Japanese American Citizens League, 1941-42," *Pacific Historical Review* 52 (2) (1983): 147-74; Steven H. Wilson, "Brown Over 'Other White': Mexican Americans' Legal Arguments and Litigation Strategy in School Desegregation Lawsuits," *Law and History Review* 21 (1) (Spring 2003): 145-94.

Week 5 (Nov. 3) The Social and Cultural Worlds of Immigrants

While different segments of immigrant and ethnic populations engaged in various forms of civil rights and citizenship politics, they also dealt with the challenge of adjustment and adaptation in their everyday lives. This week's readings explore some of the quotidian strategies people employed to adapt and adjust to what was often a hostile and bewildering social environment in the United States.

READ: Jorae Wendy Rouse, "The Limits of Dress: Chinese American Childhood, Fashion, and Race in the Exclusion Era," *Western Historical Quarterly* 41 (4) (Winter 2010): 451-71; Julia Ann Laite, "Historical Perspectives on Industrial Development, Mining, and Prostitution," *Historical Journal* 52 (3) (Sept. 2009) 739-61; Douglas Monroy, "'Our Children Get So Different Here': Film, Fashion, Popular Culture, and the Process of Cultural Syncretization in Los Angeles, 1900-1935," *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* 19 (1) (Spring, 1988-1990): 79-108; Shiori Nomura, "The Voices of Women on Birth Control and Childcare: A Japanese Immigrant Newspaper in the Early Twentieth-Century USA," *Japan Forum* 21 (2) (July 2009): 255-76; Allison Varzally, "Romantic Crossings: Making Love, Family, and Non-Whiteness in California, 1925-1950," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 23 (1) (Fall 2003): 3-54.

Week 6 (Nov. 10)-- NAFTA, Neoliberalism, and Demographic Change

If the Great Age of Migration that followed the Industrial Revolution marked the first period of what is now commonly referred to as "globalization," the period following the

Second World War—and especially the period since the early 1970s—surely marks a second great era of globalization. A key feature of the current historical moment of globalization is the pronounced economic reordering of the world under principles that economists and economic historians have dubbed “neoliberalism.” This week’s readings explore the phenomenon of neoliberal economic restructuring, focusing in particular on the many profound ways structural economic change has impinged on human migration and on both formal and informal systems of social membership in modern economies and societies.

READ: David Harvey, “Neoliberalism as Creative Destruction,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 610 (Mar. 2007): 22-44; Douglas S. Massey and Karen A. Pren, “Unintended Consequences of U.S. Immigration Policy: Explaining the Post-1965 Surge from Latin America,” *Population and Development Review* 38 (1) (March 2012): 1-29; Donna Chollett, “From Sugar to Blackberries: Restructuring Agro-Export Production in Michoacán, Mexico,” *Latin American Perspectives* 36 (3) (May 2009): 79-92; William Kandell and Emilio A. Parrado, “Restructuring of the U.S. Meat Processing Industry and New Hispanic Migrant Destinations,” *Population and Development Review* 31 (3) (Sept. 2005): 447-7; Sandy Smith-Nonini, “The Illegal and the Dead: Are Mexicans Renewable Energy?” *Medical Anthropology* 30 (5) (2011): 231-67.

Week 7 (Nov. 17)—Gendered Dimensions of Migration

As we have seen in previous readings, the phenomenon of global migration has always been a deeply and complexly gendered process affecting family structure, the structure of systems of gender in both immigrant-sending and immigrant-receiving societies, and the complex universe of constructed social norms about sexual orientation, sexuality, masculinity, and femininity. This week’s readings explore some of the ramifications of the global migration on these key areas of social life.

READ: Gretchen Ritter, “Gender and Citizenship after the Nineteenth Amendment,” *Polity* 32 (3) (Spring 2000): 345-76; Guy Standing, “Global Feminization through Flexible Labor: A Theme Revisited,” *World Development* 27 (3) (1999): 583-602; Edna A. Viruell-Fuentes, “‘My Heart Is Always There’: The Transnational Practices of First-Generation Immigrant and Second-Generation Mexican American Women,” *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 13 (3) (July-Sept. 2006) 427-53; Joanna Dreby, “Honor and Virtue: Mexican Parenting in The Transnational Context,” *Gender and Society* 20 (1) (Feb. 2006): 32-59; Susan Eckstein and Thanh-Nghi Nguyen, “The Making and Transnationalization of An Ethnic Niche: Vietnamese Manicurists,” *International Migration Review* 45 (3) (Fall 2011): 639-74.

Week 8 (Dec. 1)—Citizenship and Its Discontents

The institution of national citizenship in liberal societies such as the United States has always been held as the foundation upon which systems of civil, social, political, (and to some extent) economic “rights” have been based. In recent years, however, critical

scholars in a variety of academic disciplines have raised questions about the actual design and function of the formalized systems of social and political membership known as “citizenship.” This week’s readings provide brief exposure to some of the debates about the history and future of citizenship policy and praxis in the broader context of the history of immigration we have explored in the course.

READ: Matthew Coleman and Austin Kocher, “Detention, Deportation, Devolution and Immigrant Incapacitation in the United States Post-9/11,” *Geographical Journal* 177 (3) (Sept. 2011): 228-37; Margaret D. Stock, “Is Birthright Citizenship Good for America?” *Cato Journal* 32 (1) (Winter 2012): 139-57; Nicholas de Genova, “The Legal Production of Mexican/Migrant ‘Illegality,’” *Latino Studies* 2 (2004): 160-85; Adam Bonica, et al., “Why Hasn’t Democracy Slowed Rising Inequality?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27 (3) (Summer 2013): 103-24; Guy Standing, “The Precariat: From Denizens to Citizens?” *Polity* 44 (4) (October 2012): 588-608; Thomas Simon, “Citizenship as a Weapon,” *Citizenship Studies* 17 (3/4) (June 2013): 505-24.

Week 9 (Dec. 8)—Citizens, Non-Citizens, and the Significance of the Contemporary “Immigrant Rights” Campaign

According to the U.S. Census Bureau there are now more foreign-born people in the United States than ever before. The presence of millions of both authorized and unauthorized residents has raised pressing new concerns about the future of citizenship and the changing social structure of the nation. This week’s readings provide an introduction to the current debate over the shifting role of immigrants and their children to the future of the country.

READ: Leila Kavar, “Juridical Framings of Immigrants in the United States and France: Courts, Social Movements, and Symbolic Politics,” *International Migration Review* 46 (2) (Summer 2012): 414-55; Robin M. Rodríguez, “Beyond Citizenship: Emergent Forms of Political Subjectivity amongst Migrants,” *Identities* 20 (6) (Dec. 2103): 738-54; Sébastien Chavin and Blanca Garcés-Mascareñas, “Beyond Informal Citizenship: The New Moral Economy of Migrant Illegality,” *International Political Sociology* 6 (2012): 241-59; Ruth Milkman and Veronica Terriquez, “‘We Are the Ones Who Are Out Front’: Women’s Leadership in the Immigrants’ Rights Movement,” *Feminist Studies* 38 (3) (Fall 2012): 723-52; Lisa M. Martinez, “‘Flowers from the Same Soil’: Latino Solidarity in the Wake of the 2006 Immigrant Mobilizations,” *American Behavioral Scientist* 52 (4) (Dec. 2008): 557-79.

Week 10 (Dec. 15) The Economics and Politics of Contemporary Immigration

The current debate over immigration and citizenship policy and practice is clearly one of the most contentious areas of political discord in the United States and other immigrant-receiving nations and regions. This final week’s readings explore some of the most important dimensions of the current debate over these historically vexed issues.

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